



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi since 1926

Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 2

February 2015

Holiday Schedule:

- ◆ Arbor Day 2015:
 - ◇ Friday, February 13th
- ◆ George Washington's Birthday 2015:
 - ◇ Monday, February 16th

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Photo by Blake Wofford



“Because planting seasons vary from state to state, each state celebrates Arbor Day independently on their own date based on their planting seasons.”

- Click [here](#) for a link to the Arbor Day Foundation website.
- Click [here](#) for more information on the 2015 Arbor Day Celebration at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

Mississippi Arbor Day 2015

By Todd Matthews

The first Arbor Day took place in Villanueva de la Sierra, a small village in Spain in 1805. Napoleon was ravaging Europe and a local priest started Arbor Day as a sort of community rebuilding project. He recognized the importance of trees to health, hygiene, aesthetics, nature, environment, customs and a sense of place and community pride. The first tree they planted was a poplar and the whole event was more of a festival than a planting project. They had a feast and the festival lasted 3 days. The first American Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 when J. Sterling Morton (his son started the Morton Salt Company "When it rains it pours") saw a need. This was shortly after the Civil War and the Reconstruction period had really decimated the nation's timber. Morton founded Arbor Day and organized the planting of over 1 million trees that day.

Today, the headquarters for the Arbor Day Foundation is located in Nebraska and the National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday of April each year. That's the best planting time for Nebraska. Because planting seasons vary from state to state, each state celebrates

Arbor Day independently on their own date based on their planting seasons. It wasn't until 1926 in Mississippi that Arbor Day became an official day of observance. In section 5, Chapter 161 of the 1926 Mississippi Code, the State and County Boards of Education were directed to set aside a special day each year in the public schools "...on which day ornamental and shade trees, flowers, etc., are to be placed where practical on the grounds surrounding all public school houses."

Later, the second Friday in February was firmly adopted as the day on which the state would annually observe Arbor Day. In addition, Governor Phil Bryant proclaimed February 13-19, 2015 to be Tree Planting Week in Mississippi.

Trees in town are more than just an extension of the local garden club. They are more than something nice to look

at. They are a resource, the same as good industry and good roads and good schools. All are important for community vitality. If you take away the trees, the canopy, the shade (as has happened in recent storms in parts of the state) you will lose a sense of

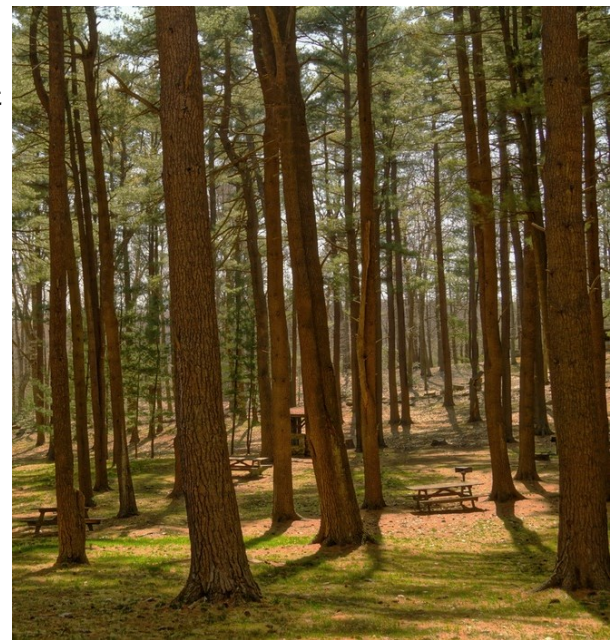


Photo by Dakota Rose

place. Property values drop, tax revenues decrease and energy costs go up. The quality of life changes. We encourage everyone to go outside and observe Arbor Day by planting trees, so that communities may continue to enjoy their benefits for years to come.



Click [here](#) to visit the WDAM website.

“The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science held an Arbor Day Celebration from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, February 13, 2015.”



The Crosby Arboretum located in Picayune, MS.

Hattiesburg Dedicates Community Orchard

By Charles Herrington, WDAM

HATTIESBURG, MS (WDAM) - The City of Hattiesburg, the Mississippi Urban Forestry Council and the Mississippi Forestry Commission have partnered to turn a vacant lot on West Street into the city's first community orchard.

The Gordon's Creek Fruit Orchard has 41 newly-planted trees, which will eventually give local residents some peaches, plums, apples, figs and blueberries to add to their dinner plates.

Friday, the orchard was dedicated during the city's annual Arbor Day celebration.

City officials said several other community orchards are planned for various locations throughout town.

Click [here](#) to view the WDAM full article.



Arbor Day Events in Mississippi

- The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science held an Arbor Day Celebration from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, February 13, 2015. The event was an excellent field trip opportunity. Highlights included: the National Geographic Giant Map of Africa with unique and playful cartographic activities; displays and crafts focused on Mississippi trees and their role in our environment; leaf print valentines; and a live tree giveaway.
- The City of Pascagoula and Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District partnered to host an Arbor Day tree giveaway at the Scranton Nature Center on Friday, February 13th, which started at 10:00 a.m. A variety of seedlings were donated by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council.
- The Lamar County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mississippi Forestry Commission and Mississippi State University Extension Service sponsored a tree giveaway on February 13th, in Purvis, MS which started at 9:00 a.m.
- The Crosby Arboretum held a native plant sale in honor of Arbor Day.
- MS State University held an Arbor Day ceremony, where they celebrated their Tree Campus USA designation. The event took place on February 13th at the MSU junction at 10:30 a.m.
- The City of Lucedale had an Arbor Day Ceremony at 3:00 p.m. on February 13th.
- The Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District had a tree sale in honor of Arbor Day.



Tree Knowledge: Who Am I?

Who Am I?

January:

White Ash

Found on p. I of
MS Trees Guide

Leaves:

Type: simple, alternate, deciduous

Size: 5.0" - 7.0" long;

2.0" - 3.0" wide

Margin: coarsely doubly serrate

Apex: acuminate

Base: broadly rounded, inequilateral

Shape: obovate, ovate,

or broadly elliptical

Color: dark green

above; paler below

Surface: scabrous

above; pubescent below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: moderately stout

Color: current season, gray

Surface: scabrous; raised lenticels; leaf

scars, semicircular to oval, raised

Buds:

Size: terminal bud absent; lateral flower buds 0.25" long

Shape: flower subglobose; leaf ovoid

Color: flower scales rusty red

Surface: overlapping flower scales (10-12) with woolly hairs

Fruit and Flowers:

Samara: flattened seed;

broad wing with netted veins; margin smooth;

apex, notched, rounded, or depressed

Size: wing 0.75" long

Shape: oval to orbicular

Color: green

Flower: monoecious;

perfect; apetalous; short-stalked to nearly

sessile; in 3-flower

clusters; calyx bell-shaped,

green, pubescent, with yellow filaments and

reddish purple

anthers; flower 0.13" dia.

Physical Attributes:

Form: single stem

Size: 85.0', mature

Growth Rate: rapid;

45.0' maximum @ 20 yrs

Life Span: moderate;

(>50 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: tolerant

Drought: medium

Fire: (no data)

Anaerobic: none

Propagation: seed (cold

stratification required);

bare root; container

Other: resprout/coppice

potential

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: moist, rich soils of

lower slopes and flood

plains; may also grow on

dry hillsides with

limestone soils; abundant

and associated with many other hardwood

trees in its wide range

Soil Texture: fine -

coarse

Soil pH: 5.5 - 7.0

Range: southern Maine

and southern Quebec to eastern North Dakota;

south to eastern

Texas; west to Florida; in

Mississippi,

throughout

Wildlife Value & Uses:

nesting for birds

in the thick elm foliage;

seeds and buds are

food for songbirds, game

birds, and squirrel;

twigs browsed by deer and

rabbit

Timber Value and Uses:

not an important

lumber tree; hard strong

wood, but considered

inferior to American elm

even though often

mixed and sold together as

soft elm; used

commercially for making

furniture, paneling, and

containers;

Landscaping Info:

somewhat available through

native plant nurseries with-

in its range

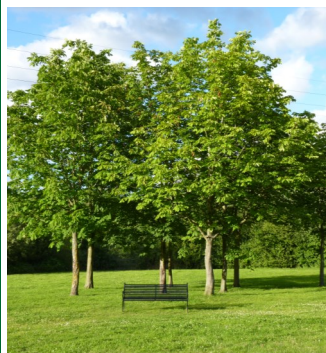
- Click [here](#) for a link to the MS Trees Guide.

Who Am I?



Click [here](#) to view more
Toolbox Talks from
SafetyWorks!

**“The most
dangerous tool
is the one you
are using.”
-Jim Hancock**



Click [here](#) for more in-
formation on the Pre-
scribed Burning Short
Course.

Toolbox Talks

By SafetyWorks!

Subject: Clothing (PPE)

The proper work clothing can make a job a lot easier and safer. Most workers never really think much about what they are wearing, but they should. It is very important to dress for the weather since most of the work is done outside or in areas without any climate control. A PPE assessment should have been completed prior to the job starting. Workers should be informed of what PPE is required on this specific job site.

Guide for Discussion: The following items should help each worker how to dress properly:

Weather

- Know the day's forecast.
- Be prepared to add or subtract clothing.
- Never work without your shirt in summer.
- If you begin to over-

heat, don't take off more clothes. Instead, slow down your working pace.

- In winter, try to avoid getting wet by wearing the proper clothing.

Proper Clothing – Head to Toe

- A Hard Hat when required; soft cap during winter months.
- Eye protection of either safety glasses or safety goggles.
- Face shield for face protection.
- Long or short sleeved shirt depending on the weather.
- Long pants always – wearing short pants can be dangerous if you are light skinned.
- Thick socks.
- Safety shoes, steel or composite toes if required.
- Work gloves.

Watch for the Following

- Dirty clothes – keep your clothes clean and free of grime and bacteria.
- Keep oil and chemicals off of your clothes—don't be a human torch.
- Don't wear pants with cuffs on them.
- Missing buttons, rips and tears can increase the chances of cuts, bruises and other injuries.
- Loose garments tend to get caught easily; Belts, ties and other accessories.

Additional Discussion Notes:
Company Policy on wearing hard hats, eye protection, shirts/long pants.

Remember: Since we generally must work in our clothes all day, every day, it makes good sense to wear the proper type of clothing to keep us as comfortable as possible.

Prescribed Burning Short Courses 2015

April 14-16th, 2015

Hilton Garden Inn
975 Highway 12 East
Starkville, MS

Cost: \$250

October 6-8th, 2015

Pearl River Community College
Woodall Technology Center

906 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Cost: \$250

Please contact Jeff Ware (MFC Safety/ Training Director) for more information.

Phone:
662-401-8067
Email:
jware@mfc.state.ms.us

50 Firewise Things You Can Do...to protect your home

By Leslie "Opie" Blackwell



Adams County -

How To Have A Firewise Home event Kingston United Methodist Church, Natchez, Mississippi on **February 24, 2015**.

Please complete the pre-registration form and return by fax to (601) 296-1253 by **February 17, 2014**.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Keri Jones at (601) 442-1790 ext. 3. [Click here](#) for a copy of the Invitation letter, Agenda, Registration form and Event flyer.



No Cost, Just A Little Time.

- Contact someone to perform a Firewise assessment of your home.
- Contact your local VFD.
- Clean your roof/gutters of leaves/needles.
- Clear the view of your house numbers so it can be easily seen from the street.
- Put a hose (at least 100' long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches overhanging your house.
- Trim all tree branches within 15' of chimney.
- Rake debris accumulation away from house 15' or more.
- Cut back trees/shrubs from shoulder of driveway.
- Trim tree branches overhanging the driveway to a 14' vertical clearance for emergency vehicles.
- In fall, mow dry grasses to less than 6" for 30' around the house.
- Cut lower branches of trees 7 - 10' off the ground within the defensible space.
- Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation within the defensible space.
- Remove any wood/flammable materials from underneath decks/balconies.
- Relocate woodpiles at least 30' from structures.
- Clear away flammable vegetation within 10' of woodpiles.
- Compost leaves, etc.
- Use cut trees/branches for firewood.
- Discuss/plan an escape route with your family.
- Have practice drills. Include all family and pets.
- Check fire extinguishers. Are they charged? Accessible? Does everyone know where they are kept and how to use them?

- Get involved with community mitigation efforts.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage.
- Talk to children about fire and matches.
- Post toll free numbers to report a wildfire on your refrigerator.
- If you have a burn barrel that you use for burning trash, STOP!
- Compost leaves in the fall, don't burn them.
- Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose BEFORE you start the fire.
- Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing toward your home (or your neighbor's home).
- Mississippi Forestry Commission's website: www.mfc.ms.gov.

Minimal Cost Actions \$

- Install visible house numbers on your home (at least 4 inches tall).
- Post house numbers at end of long driveways using non-flammable material.
- Install a spark arrestor or non-flammable screen with mesh less than 1/2" on chimneys.
- Cover exterior attic, soffit and underfloor vents using non-flammable screen with mesh less than 1/8".
- Install fire extinguishers in the kitchen and garage.
- Host a neighborhood meeting to talk about mitigation and fire safety.
- Separate an attached wood fence from your house with a metal shield, block pillar or other non-flammable material.

Moderate Cost Actions \$\$

- Build a turnaround in your driveway big enough to accommodate an emergency vehicle.
- Modify driveways gates to allow emergency vehicle access. They should be at least 10' wide, set back 30' from the road, accessed easily or lock should be able to be broken if necessary.
- Enclose decks/balconies with fire-resistive materials.
- Replace vinyl gutters/ downspouts with non-flammable metal gutters/downspouts.
- Enclose foundations with concrete block or other fire-resistive building materials.
- Use fire resistant plants and materials for home landscaping.

High Cost \$\$\$

- Replace your roof with fire-resistive materials such as Class A shingles.
- Install roof irrigation or sprinkler system to protect your home's roof.
- Replace siding or outside walls with fire-resistive or non-combustible materials.
- Replace single-paned windows with double or triple-paned glass.
- Improve road, driveways and bridges to carry at least 45,000 lbs.
- Relocated propane tanks at least 30' from structures, preferably on the same contour.
- Improve your driveway by widening, straightening sharp curves and filling in dips.

For additional information on the Firewise program please contact:

Leslie "Opie" Blackwell
Firewise Program Coordinator
(601) 540-3358
lblackwell@mfc.state.ms.us

Click [here](#) for more information on the Firewise program.

SGSF Urban & Community Forestry Committee Winter Meeting



Mississippi was proud to host the Annual Winter Meeting of the SGSF Urban & Community Forestry Committee. The regional meeting held in Biloxi February 27th - 29th.



“Mississippi was proud to host the Annual Meeting of the SGSF Urban & Community Forestry Committee.”

Personnel News

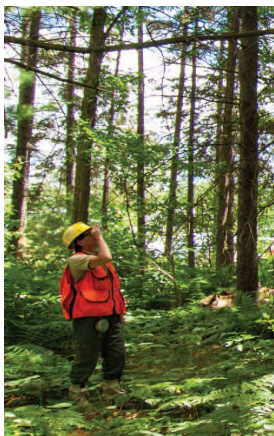
- Thomas Gunn retired effective January 31st
- Meacham Harlow represented the MFC at the Lucedale Arbor Day Ceremony, and presented them with a Tree City award.

WELCOME!

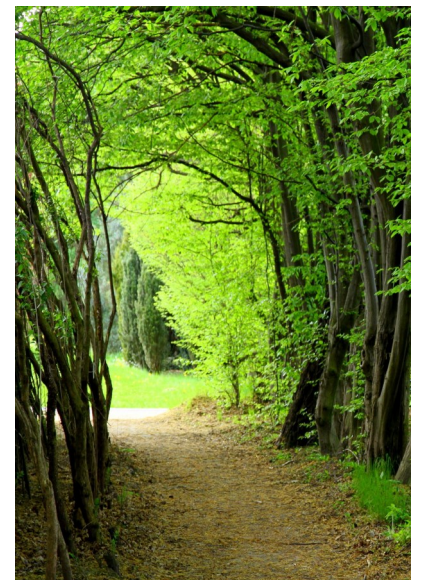
- Broc Carden
- Brandon Weeks
- Coley Bryant
- Hubert Files
- Jerry Boyd

Moving On

- Emily Goss
- Victor Long



NASF 2014 Annual Report



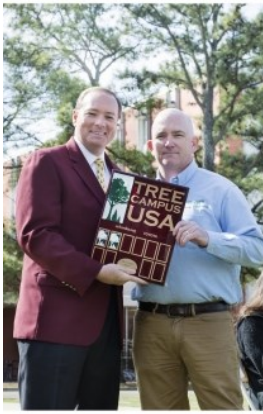


Photo by Megan Beach

MSU Celebrates Tree Campus USA Designation with Arbor Day Observance

By Sasha Steinburg

STARKVILLE, Miss.-- Mississippi State officials, along with members of the university's student chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, gathered today [Feb. 13] in the Junction to celebrate the land-grant institution's Tree Campus USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

"I am so proud that we are a tree campus and we're being recognized as such," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum during his opening remarks. "Trees make places special. You can just look around this campus and realize how special trees are to Mississippi State University, where we have more than 10,000 trees of many different species and varieties."

Keenum said the university plants between 80 to 100 new trees on the Starkville campus every year.

"Trees are important, and we should recognize and appreciate their contributions to our lives. As human beings, we can't live without trees," he said.

This past year, the value of timber alone for the Magnolia State was about \$1.2 billion, Keenum said.

"When you factor in all the products that we manufac-

ture and produce here in Mississippi using wood products, that number balloons to more than \$10 billion," he said, adding that the timber industry provides more than 60,000 jobs for Mississippians.

"We're blessed as Mississippians with an abundance of trees that we all can enjoy. Nearly two-thirds of all the land in our state is in forest land, which amounts to more than 20 million acres."

In thanking the university's campus landscape staff, Campus Tree Advisory Committee and College of Forest Resources students, faculty and staff for their contributions to university conservation efforts, Keenum highlighted a particularly meaningful use of campus trees.

"One thing that we do here at Mississippi State University that I think is really special is when a student passes away, we plant a tree to memorialize that student. We have more than 150 trees that are planted as memorials to students who have passed away. That's how much we value trees on our campus."

Todd Matthews, urban forestry coordinator with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, presented Keenum with a commemorative plaque from the Arbor Day Foundation

noting the university's Tree Campus USA status.

The event concluded with the planting of a Nuttall oak tree in observance of Mississippi's Arbor Day, which is annually celebrated on the second Friday in February. National Arbor Day is April 24.

"The campus landscape is the first thing visitors and potential students see at Mississippi State," said Jason Gordon, assistant Extension professor in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Gordon, chair of the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, is one of ten members who study, plan and coordinate campus tree plantings and maintenance. The committee consists of three Extension personnel, two teaching faculty, two members of MSU's Campus Landscape and Facilities Management Departments and three forestry students, one of whom holds the vice-chair position.

To continue reading the rest of this article, please click [here](#).

For additional information about the university's campus landscape efforts, contact Bart Prather at 662-325-2499 or email BPrather@campuslandscape.msstate.edu

"We're blessed as Mississippians with an abundance of trees that we all can enjoy. Nearly two-thirds of all the land in our state is in forest land, which amounts to more than 20 million acres."

- Click [here](#) to view the full article.
- Click [here](#) to access MSU's college of forest resources online.
- Click [here](#) to visit MSU's colleges of forest resources facebook page.





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Visit us online!
www.mfc.ms.gov

Click [here](#) to visit us
on Facebook!

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



February 2015
Newsletter

Our Mission

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and its protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests. **Serving Mississippi Since 1926.**

Our Mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.

